

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01600 160914Z

17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14

CU-05 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 025406

R 160820Z SEP 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2406

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1600

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: MAO INSCRIPTION TO LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

1. AUSTRALIANS HAVE INFORMED US THAT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, AN INSCRIPTION IN ORIGINAL CALLIGRAPHY BY CHAIRMAN MAO WAS PRESENTED TO THE PEKING LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTER

FOR FOREIGNERS. THE EVENT WAS GREETED WITH GONGS AND FIRECRACKERS AT THE INSTITUTE, AND CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED THROUGH THE WEEKEND. AN AUSTRALIAN AT THE INSTITUTE ASKED A CHINESE OFFICIAL ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GESTURE AND WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS AN INDICATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF HIS SUPPORT FOR INCREASED CHINESE CULTURAL CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN PEOPLES. THE CALLIGRAPHY IS SAID TO BE BOLD, I.E. INDICATIVE OF VIGOR.

2. COMMENT: INSTANCES OF MAO TAKING BRUSH IN HAND TO SEND COMMEMORATIVE INSCRIPTIONS ARE RARE, AND IN RECENT PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PEKING UNIVERSITY AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY HAVE BEEN SO HONORED AMONG EDUCATIONAL

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INSTITUTIONS IN PEKING. THIS HIGHLY SYMBOLIC ACT

IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE FASHION NOT ONLY SUGGESTS THAT MAO HAS PLACED
HIS PERSONAL IMPRIMATUR ON CONTINUED AND EXPANDED CULTURAL CONTACTS
WITH THE WEST, IT MAY ALSO BE DESIGNED TO TEMPER THE CONTINUING
DEBATE OVER THINGS FOREIGN AND THEIR ROLE IN CHINA. THUS FAR, PRC
MEDIA HAVE NOT PUBLICIZED THE EVENT. BROADLY SPEAKING, THE
INSCRIPTION PROJECTS AN IMAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN AS ACTIVE. HOW IT
IS HANDLED WILL PROVIDE A CLEARER INDICATION OF MAO'S INTENT IN MAKING

THIS GESTURE.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GIFTS, CULTURAL CENTERS, LANGUAGE SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01600
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740258-0606
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CH, (MAO TSE-TUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005